Functioning of AICTE

953. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a question has been raised on the functioning of All India Council for Technical Education on various issues;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it also a fact that some colleges get affiliation very easily and some reputed colleges are not getting it; and

(d) if so, what action Government would take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) The Government has been receiving representations on the functioning of All Indian Council for Technical Education (AICTE) on various issues like:

(i) Delay in grant of approval,

(ii) Restrictive policy in approval of new courses and expansion in intake of existing courses,

(iii) Lack of uniformity in applying norms and standards in grant of approval,

(iv) Delay in payment of M. Tech. Scholarship,

(v) Lack of action by AICTE on complaints against institutions relating to malpractices in admissions, and

(vi) Irregularities in Regional Offices.

(c) Affiliation is granted by universities and not by AICTE

(d) Does not arise.

Introduction of sex education in schools

954. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether much debate is going on about introduction of sex education in schools;

(b) what are all the plus and minus points of this issue; and

(c) what is the policy of Government and its initiatives on this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) Ministry of Human Resource Development in collaboration with National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) has launched "Adolescence Education Programme (AEP)" for implementation by all the State and Union Territory Governments.

The framework of the Programme incorporates three major concerns of adolescence; (i) Process of Growing up during adolescence, (ii) Prevention of HIV/AIDS and (iii) Prevention of Substance (Drug) Abuse. The programme is meant for the students of secondary and higher secondary schools and is an effort to help the students acquire life skills so that they

avoid risky situations and take informed decisions and develop healthy and responsible behavior.

In view of some criticism in media regarding appropriateness of the material used in the programme, National AIDS Control Organization (NACO) of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (MOHFW) has set up a Committee to review the material pertaining to Adolescence Education Programme. Besides, all the States and Union Territories have also been advised to review the material to align the same in the context of local environment and socio-cultural ethos.

Restriction on deemed universities to conduct examinations

955. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission (UGC) has proposed new guidelines to debar deemed universities from conducting under-graduate and distance learning courses, restricting only to masters level courses for them;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of deemed universities alongwith the details of under-graduate courses conducted presently, by them on regular and through distance learning mode, in the country;

(d) the rationale behind the proposal;

(e) whether responsibility of regulating distance learning education vests with the Distance Education Council under IGNOU or with UGC; and

(f) whether the UGC's proposal has been vetted by the Council?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Central Government at present. According to the University Grants Commission (UGC), the draft UGC (Institutions Deemed-to-be-Universities) Regulations 2008, are presently only at the consultation stage.

(c) Details of the undergraduate courses conducted by the deemed-to-be-universities are not maintained centrally. The State-wise details of institutions that have been declared as 'deemed-to-be-universities' under Section 3 of the UGC Act, 1956 are enclosed as Statement. (*See* below).

(d) In view of the reply to parts (a) and (b) above, does not arise.

(e) Distance Education Council (DEC), a statutory authority under the IGNOU Act 1985, is responsible for promotion, coordination and maintenance of standards of open and distance education system in the country. Institutions declared as deemed-to-be-universities, could offer distance education programmes only with the specific approval of the DEC and the UGC. Accordingly, all proposals submitted by the deemed-to-be-universities to start distance education have to be approved by both the DEC and the UGC.

(f) Does not arise in view of reply to parts (a) and (b) above.